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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/14/07
 LAST UPDATED 2/21/07 HB 915

SPONSOR Picraux

SHORT TITLE Digital Info Manager Training SB _____

ANALYST Ortiz

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08		
	\$125.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates to SB836

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

- Commission of Public Records (CPR)
- General Services Department (GSD)
- Public Education Department (PED)
- Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO)
- Corrections Department (CD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 915 appropriates \$125 thousand from the GENERAL FUND to the Commission of Public Records for the purpose of providing training scholarships to information professionals employed by state agencies or institutions or by local or tribal governments to receive certified on-line training on managing digital records.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$125 contained in this bill is a RECURRING expense to the GENERAL FUND. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FISCAL YEAR 2008 shall revert to the GENERAL FUND.

The Commission of Public Records adds that the intent of the appropriate is two-fold: first, to provide scholarships and second, to employ a consultant to conduct the feasibility study, since the agency does not the staff to undertake the study in-house.

The present, per student cost of the University of Arizona certification program (May 2007 - May 2008) is \$20.0. The appropriation would enable the Commission to provide five scholarships for a total of \$100.0. The remaining \$25.0 would be used to contract with a qualified consultant to conduct the feasibility study and for any related, incidental costs.

The bill contains an emergency clause that would make the funds available immediately upon signature by the governor, providing the bill passes with the requisite two-thirds votes.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

According to the Commission of Public Records increasing need for governmental entities to share information with each other in order to conduct business has made the need for information professionals to acquire training in managing digital information critical. More often than not, this information is created or captured electronically and stored in IT systems. These systems are generally structured to address the needs of a specific governmental entity and do not facilitate the sharing of information with other entities.

This training would provide information professionals the ability to contribute to the planning and implementation of future government IT projects to ensure the ability of these systems to fulfill the needs of a specific governmental entity, share information with other governmental entities and preserve historically significant information for future researchers.

According to GSD, this type of training is more appropriately provided by the Information Systems Division (ISD) of GSD or, if HB 959 is enacted, by the new Department of Information Technology.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The Commission of Public Records will provide administrative support to the scholarships and planning activities; however, as discussed above, the intent is to hire a consultant to conduct the feasibility study since the agency does not have the resources to perform the work in-house.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

The bill is closely related to SB836. The intent of the two bills is the same, but the wording is slightly different. The Senate Bill has a less comprehensive title and does not define institutions as "academic institutions."

TECHNICAL ISSUES

It is possible, says the Commission of Public Records, there could be a title sufficiency issue with HB915. As mentioned above, the companion House bill carries a more comprehensive title which includes reference to the required report.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

The University of Arizona's certificate program is the only program in the Southwest for the study of digital information management that provides students with the theoretical knowledge, conceptual frameworks and practical skills required to create, maintain and preserve digital records. If this bill is not enacted the ability of New Mexico's information professionals to acquire this knowledge will be significantly restricted.

EO/nt